



• INFO memo - April 8, 2004

City of Broken Arrow
P.O. Box 610
Broken Arrow, OK 74013
www.brokenarrowok.gov

Wayne Bishop, Communications Coordinator
Phone: 259-8277 Fax: 251-6642

Free Trash Bag Distribution Begins Monday

The cards are in the mail and the bags are waiting!

The first week of distribution of free plastic trash bags to Broken Arrow residents will begin Monday, April 12, and continue through 17. Water Department officials said the cards that can be traded in for 200 free trash bags went in the mail at mid-week after a delay caused by technical problems.

You can bring your card to the Maintenance Center of the City at 1700 W. Detroit (behind Rhema) and exchange it for four rolls of 50 bags each. There will be signs along Elm and Aspen directing motorists to the distribution center, and there will be Public Works employees outside the building handing out the bags. You won't have to leave your vehicle.

Last year, reports Public Works Director Dave Wooden, 18,651 cards were turned in and 3,730,200 trash bags were handed out.

Distribution is from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday (April 12-17 and April 19-24). To avoid heavy traffic, try to make your pickup at mid-morning or mid-afternoon.

On May 1, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., the City will hold its annual Spring Cleaning Day, with an opportunity for BA residents to bring their lawn debris, old furniture, etc., to the Maintenance Center at no charge. Not accepted, however, will be hazardous waste of any kind, including (but not limited to) oil, paint, batteries, refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners; as well as roofing materials, bags of dirt or rocks, etc.

The City Council each year has supported these programs in a continuing effort to keep Broken Arrow clean and maintain an attitude of pride for the community. The Council approved the purchase of 4 million bags for this year's program. Those bags are also available at City Hall, in the utilities division on the south end of the building, after the distribution period ends.

Cartoon Network Tennis Deadline Nears

The registration deadline for the 2004 Cartoon Network Tennis Club program at Broken Arrow's Central Park is drawing near. Classes begin April 20, with a deadline for signing up the day before.

Those joining the club receive a backpack, t-shirt, practice ball, wristbands, shoelaces, grip tape, vibration dampener, tennis activity book and certificate of award.

Cost of the 6-week program (with two lessons per week) is \$90. The Beginner class will meet Tuesdays from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m., and the again on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Intermediate classes meet Tuesdays from 7:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the courts in Central Park.

There are also adult tennis lessons available once a week for six weeks from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Cost is \$45.

For more information on the tennis program, call 259-8437.

City to Observe Good Friday Holiday

City of Broken Arrow employees will enjoy a Good Friday holiday April 9 – or at least most of them.

City Hall and the Community Center will both be closed on that day. Police and fire departments will work the holiday, but there will be no curbside trash pickup. Those who normally have Friday service will not have pickups again until the following Tuesday, as regular schedules resume. If there are emergency problems with water or sewer, Public Works crews will be on standby.

The Community Center will be open Saturday, April 10, but closed on Easter Sunday. The annual Jaycee Easter Egg hunt, which had been scheduled for Saturday (April 10), has been cancelled, due in part to the major landscaping project which has been underway around the creek area.

City offices will be open Monday (April 12).

Law Enforcement Communicators Honored

Staying cool in times of crisis is one of the requirements for law enforcement radio dispatchers, but next week they will be permitted to loosen up and take a compliment or two.

In 1992 the United States Congress dedicated the second week of April as "National Telecommunications Week." This year that recognition comes April 11 through 17.

As Broken Arrow grows in population and the City continues to integrate more and more technology into everyday operations, the jobs of police radio dispatchers is more demanding than ever. The technology may make the jobs easier once the dispatchers have "conquered" it, but it puts more demand than

ever before on the men and women who take both the emergency (911) and non-emergency calls at the Police Department.

These communications officers serve as the link between the citizens who need help and the police and fire department officers in the field. They have saved lives in Broken Arrow by remaining calm and focusing on the situation at hand. Whether they're talking a frantic parent through CPR for a child who is not breathing or an adult who has had a heart attack; getting complete information on the site of a domestic violence problem, including whether or not weapons, drugs or alcohol is involved; or giving directions to firefighters and paramedics who are headed to a structure fire or explosion, these employees are a vital component of public safety.

Add to that the fact that the emergencies can be called in at any time from anywhere in the city – 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Telecommunicators are called upon to perform at the highest of skill levels.

“Those of us in the Police Department are thankful every day to have the quality officers who work in our communications division,” said Broken Arrow Chief of Police Todd Wuestewald. “But too often we don't let them know how much they mean to us. During this next week we want all of Broken Arrow to know how important these men and women are to the community. They may not be the ones who are out there in the public, visibly saving lives and protecting property. But without their dedication and their ability to sort out the key information from each call, the public and our officers would suffer.”

Spring Turns Central Park Red, Green, Busy

The redbud trees are still blooming and the grass is growing rapidly. Spring has sprung in Broken Arrow and Central Park is getting ready to get busy!

In addition to being the site of family picnics and playground activities, Central Park will soon be hosting a series of annual events. Rooster Days will begin May 6 and continue through May 9, with the carnival, food court and two stages for singing, dancing and pageants set for Central Park. The Community Center will be the site of arts and crafts activities.

Tuesday's Concerts in the Park will be held on the nights of June 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, and the Late Great Chevy Show will be held in Central Park on June 12. The Heritage Bluegrass Festival will be June 19.

That event, like many others, is co-sponsored by the Broken Arrow Arts & Humanities Council. It is also sponsored by Harmony House Guitars. It will be a family event, with free admission. Food vendors will be on hand. Featured performers include Cedar Hill (from Desoto, Mo.), IIIrd Generation (Norman, Ok.), Arbuckles Bluegrass Band (sponsors of the annual Western Hills Bluegrass Festival), Goldrush Bluegrass Co., Nicole Brand & Friends and Heartland Express.

The Saturday program will begin at 12 noon and continue through 10 p.m.